

WONDERFUL TRINITY

by Willis E. Bishop

We worship a wonderful, mysterious triune God! God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Each of these Persons does a work in our world and in our lives. For example, in the Apostles' Creed we say, "I believe in God, the Father ... maker of Heaven and Earth." Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." So creation seems to be His doing. And yet, in John 1:3, we read of Christ that "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Also in the work of creation we read in Genesis 1:2, "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

In the matter of prayer. Christ taught His disciples to say, "Our Father, who art in heaven..." But as Christians we are also taught to pray in Christ's name. "Ask in My name," Christ Himself said. Add to that the emphasis of Romans 8:26, 27 where it is the Holy Spirit who takes our imperfect prayers and offers them aright before the Throne of Grace.

In the matter of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In John 10:18 Jesus said, "No one takes My life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have the power to lay it down and I have power to take it again." Notice: He was raised by His own power, and yet in Acts 13:30 Paul in the Synagogue of Antioch of Pisidia said, "But God raised Him from the dead." And in Romans 8 Paul points out that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead!

In the matter of indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We know from Scripture that when a person receives Christ as Savior, at that moment the Holy Spirit enters the body of the believer as a home or dwelling place. Romans 8:9 and other passages assure us that if anyone does not have the Spirit he does not belong to Christ. But our Lord also said in John 14:23 that He, Christ, and the Father also abide with the believer. That's why we can read such passages as Colossians 1:27, "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Even in the matter of benediction! How often do we bow our heads at the end of a worship service and hear the words, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."?

Yes - it is a wonderful, mysterious triune God with whom we have to do! Even in our song:

Come Thou Almighty King; help us Thy name to sing
Help us to praise Father all glorious,
O'er all victorious;
Come and reign over us Ancient of Days.

WONDERFUL TRINITY - Bishop

Come Thou Incarnate Word; gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, and give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness to us descend.

Come Holy Comforter; Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour;
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be
Hence evermore;
Thy sov'reign majesty may we in Glory see;
And to eternity love and adore.

Amen.

[from the Lutheran Hymnal]